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# KATHLEEN VINEHOUT

## STATE SENATOR

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**Testimony in Support of SB 465**  
**Senate Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry and Natural Resources**  
**Thursday, February 4, 2010**

Super Bowl Sunday is one of our nation's biggest sporting events. Families and friends gather to party and watch the big game. It is also one of our nation's most dangerous days on the roadways because people gather to party and then get behind the wheel of their car after having too much to drink.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nearly half of the highway fatalities that occurred from kick-off of the 2008 Super Bowl to the following Monday morning involved an alcohol impaired driver.

Many Super Bowl parties take place in local taverns. Thankfully many tavern owners participate in the SafeRide program to ensure their patrons don't become a statistic.

In my district alone, the SafeRide program ensured that 8,796 bar patrons got a free, safe ride home. The 2008-09 SafeRide survey reported that statewide 53,859 people took advantage of this important and successful program.

The success of the SafeRide program is due to the commitment of tavern owners, the Wisconsin Tavern League and the Department of Transportation. They work together to administer and promote awareness of the program.

Today I ask your support for Senate Bill 465, which I authored with the support of the Department of Transportation and the Wisconsin Tavern League.

Senate Bill 465 would increase the permissible grant amount the Department of Transportation can award to qualified SafeRide applicants from 50% to 80% of the cost necessary to provide transportation. Currently the grant amount cannot exceed 50 percent of costs. This important change in reimbursement will allow the program to increase ridership by 30%.

The bill has no fiscal impact. Under current the law, fifty-percent of the SafeRide funding comes from a surcharge on all OWI convictions. The dollars allocated to the program can only be used for alternative transportation. The other fifty-percent of SafeRide funding is raised by Tavern League members who volunteer countless hours to sponsor various fundraisers. I applaud their dedication to the program and to helping keep our roadways safe.

I hope we can pass SB 465 and help more people make the responsible choice to not drink and drive.